

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 185612

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, WB

SUBJECT:SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR BANNING NPD PUBLIC
MEETINGS IN BERLIN

REFS: A.) BONN 12572 B.) BERLIN 1430

1. WHILE AGREEING ON THE DESIRABILITY OF REACHING AGREE-
MENT ON THE SENSITIVE QUESTION OF NPD MEETINGS IN BERLIN,
THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT THE ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE
BRITISH PROPOSAL (REFTELS) ARE STRONG ENOUGH TO WARRANT
FURTHER EFFORTS TO OVERCOME UK AND FRENCH OBJECTIONS TO
PROCEDURE SUGGESTED BY USBER IN PARA 3 REF (B).

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2. IN ADDITION TO POINTS RAISED IN REFTELS, USBER SHOULD

DRAW ON FOLLOWING ARGUMENTATION IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROPOSAL:

A.) NONE OF THE THREE POWERS RELISHES THE IDEA OF FORBIDDING MEETINGS OF A POLITICAL PARTY. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT SOVIETS MADE MAJOR ISSUE OF NPD PUBLIC ACTIVITIES DURING QA NEGOTIATIONS. THEY WILL WITHOUT A DOUBT USE ANY PUBLIC MANIFESTATION OF NPD ACTIVITY IN BERLIN AS EXCUSE TO ATTACK ALLIED POLICIES IN THE CITY.

B.) OUR GOAL IN DIVISING A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR FORBIDDING SUCH MEETINGS SHOULD THEREFORE BE TO FIND A MEANS WHICH, WHILE TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS INVOLVED, ACCOMPLISHES THE TASK WITH THE LEAST CHANCE OF PUBLIC CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE NPD, THE SENAT AND THE THREE POWERS.

C. WHILE NO PROCEDURE CAN BE FOOL PROOF, WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT USBER PROPOSAL OFFERS THE FAIREST AND LEAST CONTROVERSIAL MEANS OF DOING WHAT HAS TO BE DONE. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED THAT UNDER THE BRITISH PROPOSAL, THE NPD COULD "TRANSFORM" A PRIVATE GATHERING INTO A PUBLIC MEETING AND LATER CLAIM THEY HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE ALLIED ORDER. THE RESULTING PUBLIC DEBATE COULD IN OUR VIEW BE EVEN MORE DAMAGING THAN IF A MEETING HAD BEEN HELD WITHOUT ALLIED ACTION.

D. WE UNDERSTAND UK HESITATION TO APPROVE WHAT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE A BLANKET PROHIBITION OF NPD ACTIVITIES. IN PRACTICE, HOWEVER, WE AGREE WITH EMBASSY BONN, THAT A GENERAL BAN, SUBJECT TO REVIEW EVERY THREE MONTHS IS IN MANY WAYS LESS ARBITRARY THAN THE MORE OR LESS AUTOMATIC UK MECHANISM WHICH COULD THEORETICALLY RUN FOREVER UNLESS A SPECIFIC DECISION WAS TAKEN TO REVIEW ITS IMPLEMENTATION. KISSINGER

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